ATT3_PG1_WorkPlan2of3
Major Water-Related Issues and Conflicts in the Region

Water Quality

- Drinking water quality impairments, particularly in small communities in North and South County (including both private and municipal wells)
- Groundwater quality impairments due to seawater intrusion
- Surface and groundwater quality impairments due to runoff (agricultural and urban sources, including municipal outflows/stormwater), including:
  - Nitrates and other nutrients from agriculture, livestock management, septic system failures, and urban sources
  - Sediment (due to land use practices, including construction, agricultural practices, and poorly constructed/maintained roads)
  - Pesticides
  - Metals (e.g., mercury, arsenic, chromium, copper, zinc)
  - Bacteria
  - Salts
  - Trash
  - Unknown impairments in surface waters and ocean from emerging pollutants such as pharmaceuticals, personal hygiene products, etc.
- Agricultural food safety issues impacting water quality
- Impacts to the marine environment
- Data gaps as outlined in the Strategic Plan for Central Coast Water Quality Monitoring Coordination and Data Synthesis (e.g., long-term data sets for trend analysis, improved dissemination of data results)
- Public recreation vs. water quality in reservoirs and rivers/creeks
- Challenges for small water system managers in complying with water quality regulations
- Need for increased public education about water quality issues
- Need for more enforcement of existing water quality regulations
- Lack of effective incentive structure (including economically feasible management practices) for protecting water quality from agricultural runoff

Water Supply

- Water supply problems associated with water quality impairments, particularly:
  - Seawater intrusion
  - Nitrates
- Problems with water storage and conveyance infrastructure (inadequate, leaky, or otherwise defective water systems, particularly in regard to small water systems)
- Overconsumption/overdraft
  - Irrigation
  - Municipal supplies (including landscaping)
- Water supply unreliable in certain areas, particularly in small communities
- Need/opportunities for increased water conservation (including gray water re-use, rainwater catchment)
- Environmental water needs (fisheries, wildlife)
- Drought management
- Need for increased public education about water supply issues

Watershed Management and Flood Management

- Data gaps (need for overall watershed resource assessments)
- Need for monitoring programs to assess effectiveness of projects and/or policies

- Regulatory and intergovernmental issues:
  - Interagency coordination
  - Conflicting mandates and regulations
  - Problems with regulatory compliance
  - Inconsistent enforcement of regulations
- Stormwater management/municipal drainage
- Impacts of wildfires (including water supply and water quality, debris flows)
- Need to protect and restore functioning watersheds
- Conflicts regarding flood control projects (particularly in regard to Salinas River Channel maintenance programs)
- Need to better educate rural landowners about land management/development practices that affect water resources)

Environmental Resources

- Hydrologic modifications of wetlands, streams, estuaries and lagoons impact the preservation and quality of habitat by affecting circulation (water quality), habitat structure (geomorphology), and the exchange of energy and nutrients
- Food safety issues impacting wildlife and habitat protection
- Steelhead, specifically:
  - Sustaining flows
  - Fish passage
  - Habitat (including problems caused by erosion and invasive species, e.g., sticky eupatorium weed)
- Other special status species
  - Protection
  - Habitat restoration
- Data gaps (while noting stakeholder concern for potential "regulatory creep" with collection of new data), including especially:
  - Surface water quality
  - Sources of erosion (especially in Big Sur)
  - Environmental water needs
- Invasive species (i.e., Arundo, Cape ivy, zebra mussels)
- Upland riparian habitat

Climate Change

- Anticipated changes in rain patterns and intensity adding to the uncertainty of water supply and to creek instability
- Potential impacts from sea level rise and storm surges on coastal aquatic resources and water infrastructure
- Exacerbation in saltwater intrusion in groundwater basin from sea level rise
- Anticipated increase in number and severity of wildfire events, with subsequent erosion and water quality problems
- Potential increase in flooding due to climate change

Disadvantaged Communities

- Water quality and water supply reliability problems in certain small communities
- Inadequate wastewater treatment in some disadvantaged communities
- Need for increased public education in disadvantaged communities
- Flood impacts from small and large watersheds

Miscellaneous

- Need for increased academic training and job recruitment in local water resource management sectors